

MARVEL

5

**NOCENTI
BORGES
DALHOUSE**

STORM



ORORO MUNROE

HAS BEEN A GODDESS, A THIEF, AND A MEMBER OF AND LEADER OF THE X-MEN. WITH HER MUTANT ABILITY TO COMMAND THE WEATHER BOLSTERED BY HER TOP-NOTCH FIGHTING SKILLS, SHE'S A FORMIDABLE POWERHOUSE LIKE NO OTHER. SHE IS...



It's been a time of change for STORM. After becoming leader of the X-Men, recent changes in her appearance and demeanor have caused friction with KITTY PRYDE. Additionally, an encounter with a strange creature calling itself BLOWBACK left Storm in doubt of her control over her powers.

In the midst of these developments, Storm also made a romantic connection with an inventor named TRAVIS. But the X-Men were suspicious of this newcomer, prompting Storm to quit the team and consider flying off to start a new life with Travis.

Under WOLVERINE's leadership, the X-Men battled with Blowback, hoping to uncover its mysterious connection to Storm. ROGUE used her powers to absorb some of its memories. In the aftermath, Storm discovered that Travis isn't who he says he is. When she confronted him, he emerged as Blowback, revealing Travis and the creature are two sides of the same life-form!

BLOWBACK PART 5: GRIFT

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This story takes place around the time frame of UNCANNY X-MEN #176.



LET
TRAVIS
OUT!

YOUR
ANGER
SHATTERED
HIM.

I GRABBED
CONTROL.

LIKE YOU
DID WHEN
YOU SPUN MY
WIND WITH
FIRE?

THE FIRE
TORNADO? THE
HAILSTONES? YOU
ESCALATED MY
POWERS TOO
FAR.



TRICKED
ME INTO
THINKING I WAS
DESTRUCTIVE.

MY
POWERS
OUT OF MY
CONTROL.

WHY?
WHAT ARE
YOU?

I'M THE
SHADOW CAST
BY THE MAN
YOU KNOW AS
TRAVIS.

HIS
SHADOW?

A FREAK
WITH POWERS.

FEARED AND
HUNTED.

DON'T
PLAY ME.

AS A MUTANT,
I'M SYMPATHETIC
TO THAT PLIGHT.
YOUR TRAVIS SIDE
WOULD KNOW
THAT.



DO THESE SHADOWS EVEN EXIST? OR IS THIS ANOTHER TRICK?

WHY ARE YOU NOW TRYING TO TWIST MY LIGHTNING? WHAT NEW SWINDLE IS THIS?

SWINDLE? I DON'T KNOW WHAT **GRIFT** DID TO YOU. HE KEEPS ME IN THE DARK. ALL I KNOW IS I WANT TO GO HOME!



GRIFT? THE NAME ON THE WANTED POSTERS.

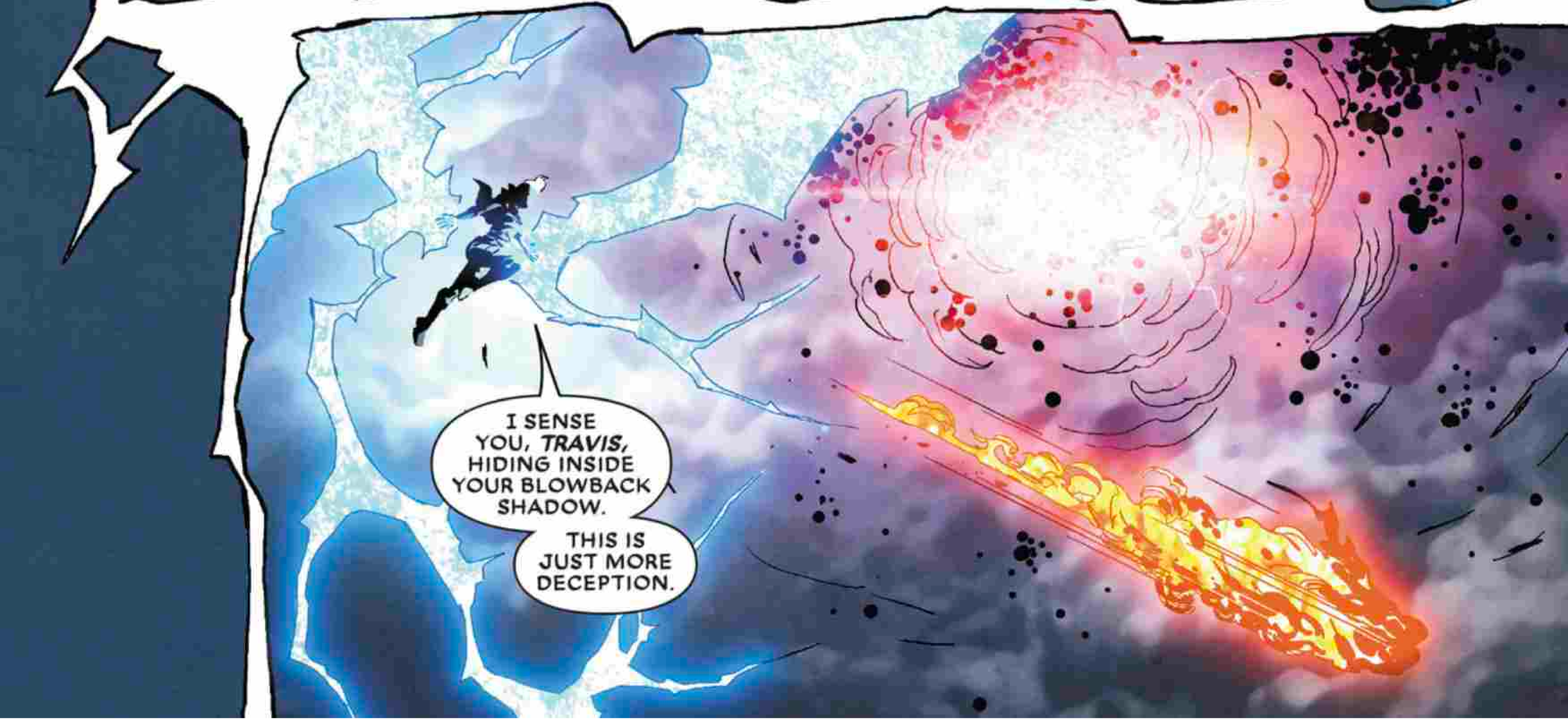
IT'S WHAT THE SHADOW HUNTERS CALL US.

HELP ME RIP OPEN A PORTAL. I'LL DRAG GRIFT AWAY.



KRAK

RIP A HOLE IN THE SKY? AND DO WHAT, DESTROY EARTH?



I SENSE YOU, **TRAVIS**, HIDING INSIDE YOUR BLOWBACK SHADOW.

THIS IS JUST MORE DECEPTION.



THE X-MEN MANSION.

CAN Y'ALL
SEE THEM, IN MAH
MIND? SOME A' HIS
PEOPLE SPLIT IN
TWO.

I CAN
SEE THEM. IT IS AS
IF THE SUBCONSCIOUS
DEVELOPS AN OUTSIDE
WILL.

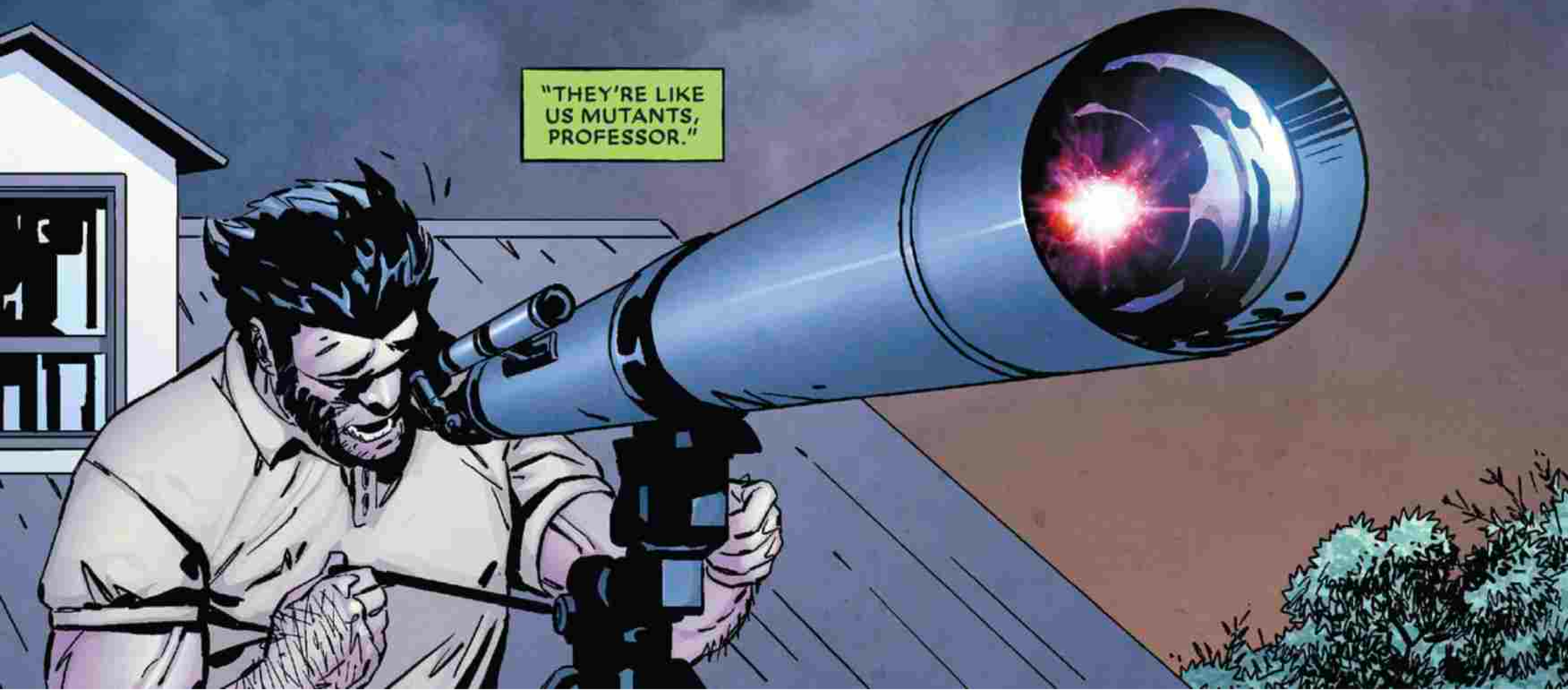
A MAN
AND HIS
SPECTER.



"THE ENTITY, HE
SHOWED ME HOW THE
SHADOWS COME OUT
IN YOUNG KIDS.



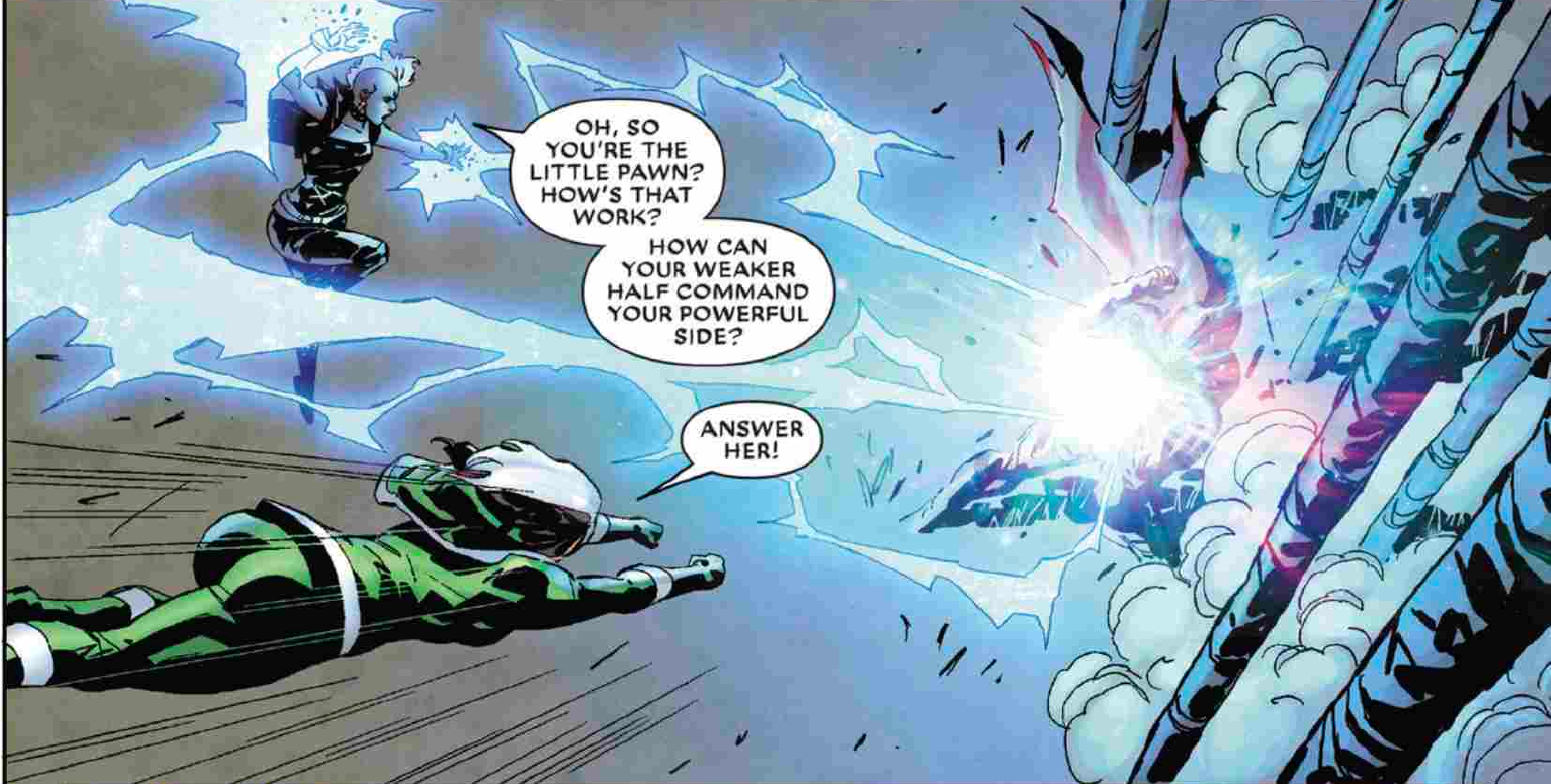
"THE ONES HAUNTED BY A
DOUBLE ARE HUNTED DOWN
LIKE HOUND DOGS ON A DUCK.



"THEY'RE LIKE
US MUTANTS,
PROFESSOR."











HE MADE ME
DO TERRIBLE
THINGS.

AND I DIDN'T
EXPECT TO FALL
IN LOVE WITH
YOU.

ANOTHER LIE?
YOUR TWO SIDES
ALWAYS BLAME EACH
OTHER? LET'S PUT
YOU ON *TRIAL* AND
FIND OUT.



THEN WE
DECIDE YOUR
FATE.

ARE YOU
WILLING TO
BE TRUTHFUL
FOR ONCE?

READY
TO PRESENT
THE EVIDENCE,
ROGUE?

THERE
IS NO COURT
FOR CRIMES OF
THE HEART.

TILL
NOW.



THE PROSECUTION
AIMS TO PROVE THAT
TRAVIS, A.K.A. GRIFT,
ATTEMPTED TO MURDER
STORM--

--BY
KILLING HER
SPIRIT.





I LOVE YOU, STORM. THAT WAS NO LIE.

YOU MADE ME DOUBT MY OWN INSTINCTS. YOU WATCHED ME FALL APART.



THAT IS NOT LOVE.

AM I GUILTY OF HUSTLING YOU TO HELP MY SHADOW PEOPLE? YES.

YOU AND I ARE THE SAME. OUTCASTS BY A DIFFERENT NAME.



A TRICKSTER'S DEFLECTION. MORE SLIPPERY EXCUSES.

NOTHING IS EVER YOUR FAULT, IS IT?



I THOUGHT I LOVED YOU.

NOW I KNOW I LOVED A SNAKE.



AH GOT SOME EVIDENCE Y'ALL WON'T LIKE, STORM. THIS ROOSTER'S GOT A FEW *HENS* IN HIS HUT.

A SHAPE-SHIFTING GAL WE ALL KNOW. SHE'S HIS FAKE BROKER FOR HIS PHONY NEOTEK SCAM.

USED A SPYBAT TO GET INTEL ON US.



MYSTIQUE? YOU SEDUCED HER TOO?

YOU BELIEVE ROGUE?

ROGUE OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS? WHO CALL THEMSELVES "EVIL"?



CAN THE DEFENSE OFFER EVIDENCE? OR IS THIS A RIGGED COURT?

ORORO MUNROE, EXHIBIT ONE. A CHILD THIEF!

MY CRIMES ARE NO EXCUSE FOR YOURS.

PROFESSOR X WOULD CALL THAT A "FALSE EQUIVALENCY."

KRAK



MYSTIQUE
CAME TO ME WITH
A CON GAME.

WITH
PHOENIX DEAD
AND CYCLOPS FAR
AWAY, SHE SAW
THE X-MEN AS
WEAK.

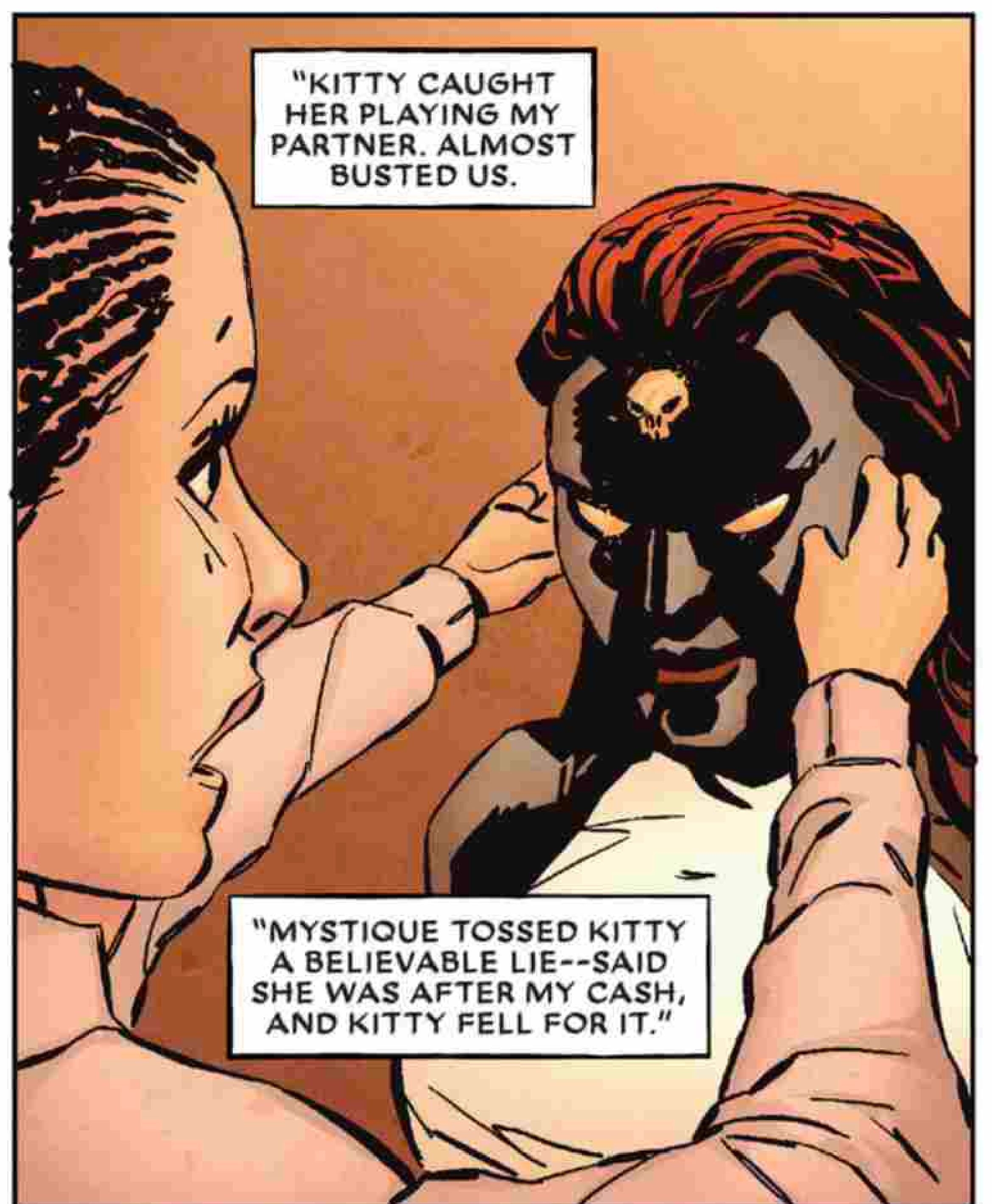
HER CHANCE
TO BOOT YOU, THE
QUEEN, OFF THE
CHESSBOARD.

I NEEDED
CASH, SHE GAVE
ME A PLAN.



"IT WASN'T *ME* WHO
RACED TO YOUR RESCUE
LIKE A WHITE KNIGHT.

"YOUR LOVING LOOK
WHEN *MYSTIQUE*
ROARED UP? SHE
TREASURES THAT LOOK.



"KITTY CAUGHT
HER PLAYING MY
PARTNER. ALMOST
BUSTED US.

"MYSTIQUE TOSSED KITTY
A BELIEVABLE LIE--SAID
SHE WAS AFTER MY CASH,
AND KITTY FELL FOR IT."



I'VE DONE
NOTHING
YOU HAVEN'T
DONE.

THE DEFLECTION TRICKS
OF A SNEAK THIEF?
YOU TOLD ME ABOUT
YOUR CHILDHOOD,
STORM.

YOU NEVER
ASKED ABOUT
MINE.



WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I LOST CHUNKS OF TIME. FUGUE STATES. BLACKOUTS.

THAT'S WHEN MY SHADOW CAME OUT.

SAME AS YOU MUTANTS. ONE DAY, WE'RE KIDS, NEXT DAY, WE'RE FREAKS.



WELL? JUDGE STORM? PROSECUTOR ROGUE?

MEMBERS OF THE BURNT TREE JURY?

WHAT SAY YOU?



DO YOU ADMIT YOUR GUILT?

I ADMIT I LIED TO SURVIVE AND HELP MY PEOPLE.

I ADMIT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.

GUILTY AS CHARGED.



MAY I? OR DO AH STILL GOTTA PULL MY PUNCHES, BOSS?

DO IT. AND DON'T HOLD BACK.



I STILL LOVE YOU--

STOP.
IT'S OVER.



WELL,
LEMME LET
YOU GO.

KPOW



THAT
FELT GREAT.
WILL IT
WORK?

I HAD TO
GET GRIFT TO
FEEL GUILT.

IF BLOWBACK
TRULY IS GRIFT'S
UNCONSCIOUS,
HE NOW FEELS
SHAME TOO.

SWEET.
Y'ALL HUSTLED
THE HUSTLER.



"THE ONLY WAY FOR
GRIFT TO SURVIVE
THE FALL IS TO LET
BLOWBACK OUT."

"WHICH IS WHY
Y'ALL FINALLY LET
ME HIT HIM WITH
ALL AH GOT?"

"BINGO,
ROGUE."



BLOWBACK
WANTS TO PUNCH
AN ESCAPE HOLE
IN THE SKY.

Y'ALL ARE
GONNA HELP
HIM GET OUTTA
DODGE?

HANG BACK.
IF I GET SUCKED
THROUGH, TELL
THE OTHERS.



BLOWBACK! YOU RIP
OPEN A PORTAL WITH
UNNATURAL WEATHER?
YOU RISK OUR
PLANET!

IT COULD HAVE
DANGEROUS RIPPLE
EFFECTS.

HELP
ME CONTROL
IT.

I'LL
DRAG THAT
SNAKE GRIFT
AWAY.



AGREED.
BUT I AM TRUSTING
THAT YOU WILL STEER
HIM TO A BETTER
PATH.

YES. IF
WE MAKE IT
THROUGH, SLAM
THE DOOR ON
HIM.

TOO LATE TO
STOP HIM.

THE IMPACT
OF THIS RAGING
TEMPEST WILL BE
FELT FOR MILES.

A white horse and a smaller white foal are running through a forest. The scene is filled with vibrant, colorful magical energy, appearing as glowing particles and streaks of light in shades of blue, green, and yellow. The background shows the silhouettes of trees.

ANIMALS SENSE
BAD STORMS
COMING.

EVERY BEAST, FROM
FIELD TO FARM TO
THE CREATURES OF
THE WILD, WILL RUN.

A close-up of a woman with dark skin and a lightning bolt symbol on her forehead. She has a determined and slightly angry expression, looking towards the right. Her hair is dark and styled in a short, spiky cut. The background is a bright, glowing yellow and orange light.

I AM SORRY TO
ALL OF EARTH'S
CREATURES FOR
TERRORIZING
THEM NOW.

Three birds are shown in flight, surrounded by a chaotic storm of colorful energy. The birds are depicted with detailed feathers and are moving through a swirling vortex of light and particles. The overall color palette is dominated by bright yellows, oranges, and purples.

I CAN FEEL
THE WIND OF
A THOUSAND
BIRD WINGS.

FLEEING
IN FEAR.

Orpheus is shown in silhouette, playing a lute. A bright, ethereal light emanates from the instrument, creating a large, glowing shape in the background. The scene is set against a dark, textured background with some light streaks.

WHEN I WAS A
CHILD, I LOVED
THE GREEK MYTHS.

IN ONE STORY, ORPHEUS
PLAYED HIS LUTE SO
SEDUCTIVELY, EURYDICE
FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM.

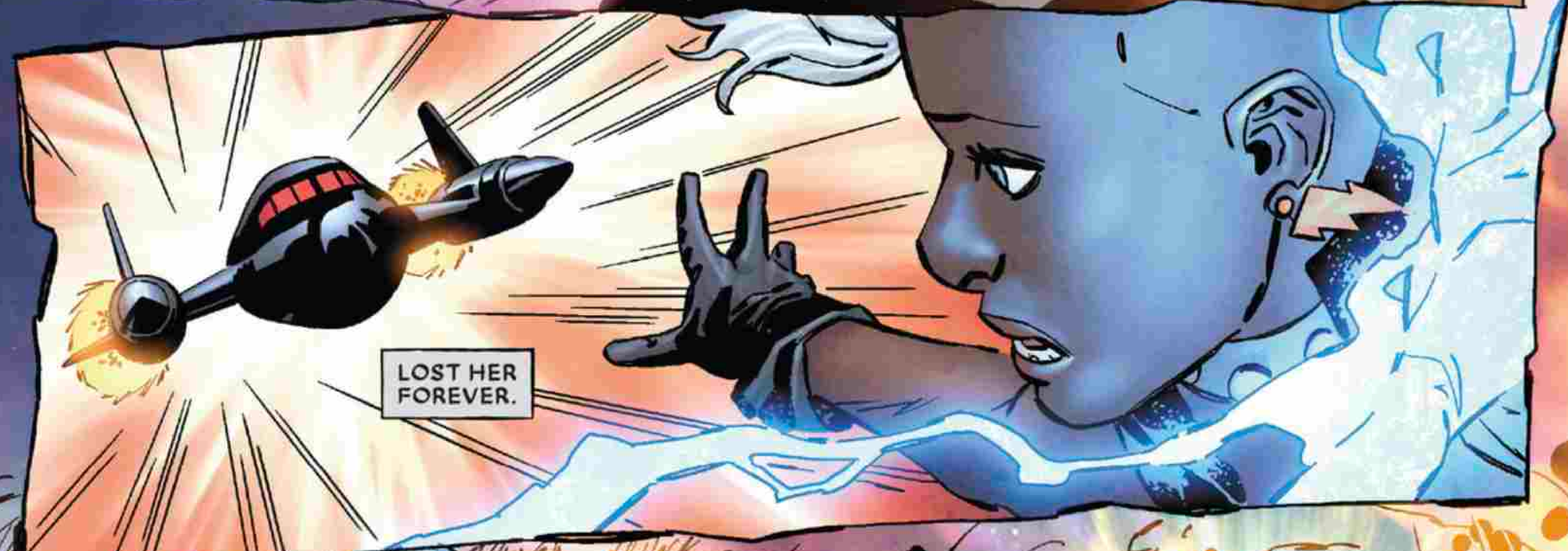
EURYDICE DIED
AND WENT TO
HADES, THE HELL
OF GREEK MYTH.

A close-up of Orpheus and Eurydice. Orpheus is in the foreground, looking down with a pained expression. Eurydice is behind him, her face partially visible, looking up at him. The background is dark and filled with red, flame-like energy.

ORPHEUS STRUMMED HIS
LUTE AND ENCHANTED DEATH
ITSELF INTO LETTING HER GO.

AS THEY CLIMBED OUT
OF HELL, ALL ORPHEUS
HAD TO DO WAS TRUST
EURYDICE AND NOT
LOOK BACK.

ORPHEUS FAILED. HE
DIDN'T TRUST HER.
HE LOOKED BACK.

Orpheus is shown from the chest up, looking back over his shoulder. He has a pained expression. In the background, Eurydice is seen falling away, her figure small and distant. The scene is filled with a bright, orange and yellow light, suggesting a fiery or hellish environment.

LOST HER
FOREVER.

Orpheus is shown in a dark, cavernous space, looking up with a pained expression. His hands are outstretched. In the background, a small, glowing figure of Eurydice is seen falling away. The scene is filled with a bright, orange and yellow light, suggesting a fiery or hellish environment.

I SEE THAT
FACE NOW.

THAT FACE
WILL HAUNT
ME FOREVER.

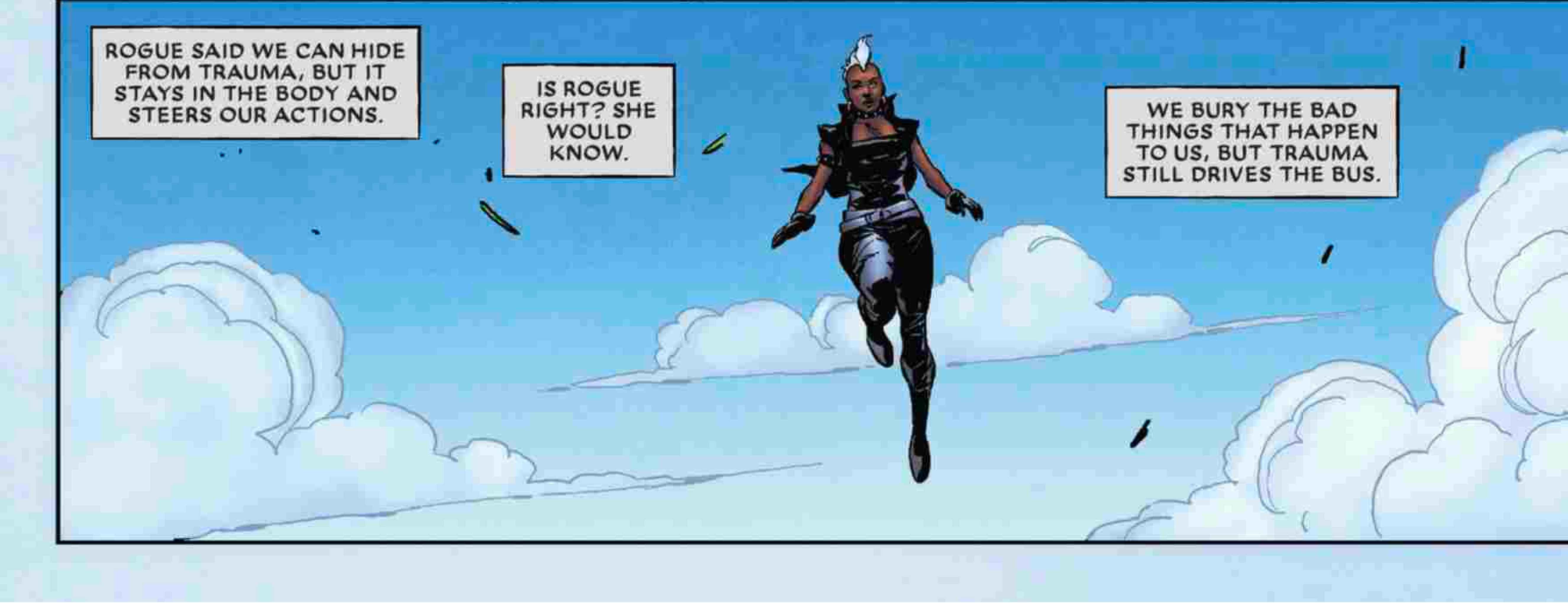


WHAT FATE DO I SEND HIM TO,
THE MAN WITH THREE NAMES?
IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW WITH A
PATHOLOGICAL LIAR.

WHAT BITS WERE
LIES, AND WHAT BITS
WERE BASED IN
SOMETHING TRUE?

DO I SEND HIM
TO THE SHADOW
HUNTERS, WHO
TORMENT AND
KILL HIS KIND?

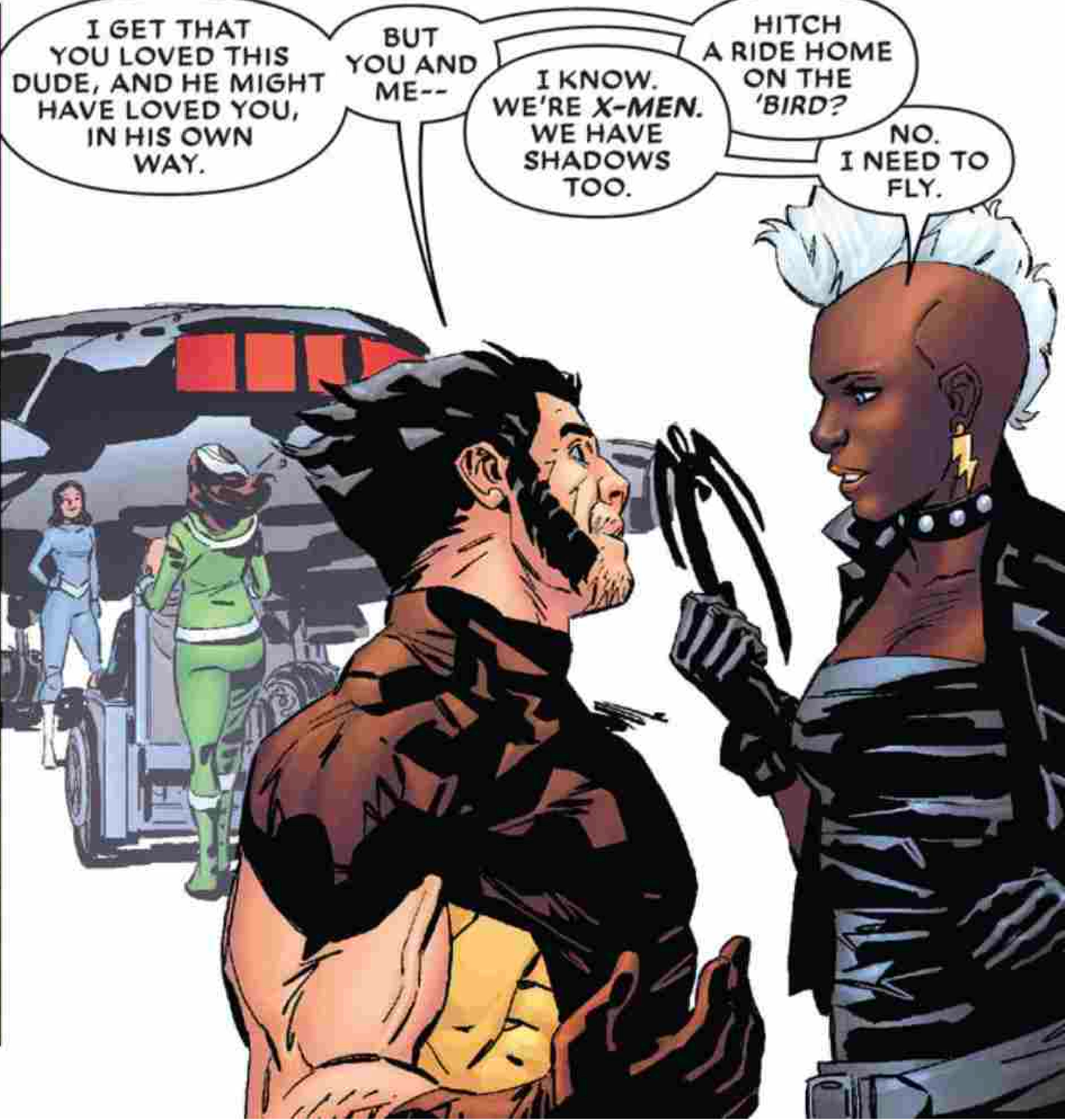
OR WILL HE HEAD
HOME TO HELP HIS
SHADOW PEOPLE?



ROGUE SAID WE CAN HIDE
FROM TRAUMA, BUT IT
STAYS IN THE BODY AND
STEERS OUR ACTIONS.

IS ROGUE
RIGHT? SHE
WOULD
KNOW.

WE BURY THE BAD
THINGS THAT HAPPEN
TO US, BUT TRAUMA
STILL DRIVES THE BUS.





CHARLES TOLD ME
"A GRIFTER'S TRUE
MARK, IN THE END,
IS THEMSELF."

AM I STILL A
TRICKY THIEF? DO
I STILL WANT TO
BE WORSHIPPED
AS A GODDESS?

I WAS ANGRY
WHEN I SHAVED
MY HEAD AND
PULLED ON THESE
LEATHERS.

I WEAR IT LIKE
ARMOR. A SHIELD.
TO STAY TIGHTLY
WRAPPED.

IT'S DANGEROUS
FOR ME TO HAVE
POWERFUL
EMOTIONS.

I CAN RIP
OPEN THE
SKIES.

BUT FOR NOW,
I RIDE A GENTLE
WIND. THE BIRDS
FORGIVE ME.

I'M REMINDED OF SOMETHING
GEORGE ORWELL ONCE WROTE: "IF
YOU WANT TO KEEP A SECRET, YOU
MUST ALSO HIDE IT FROM YOURSELF."

END.

STORM

Phew! What a tumultuous ride--Ororo hit some true low points over the course of this series, but it's such a pleasure to see her enjoying sunny skies on the other side of that maelstrom. And speaking of pleasures, it's been such a blast to work with legendary X-Men editor and scribe **Ann Nocenti** on this story, digging into one of our favorite eras in Storm's history.

Eagle-eyed readers and continuity buffs will notice this tale took place around **UNCANNY X-MEN #176**. A landmark issue, where Scott Summers and Madelyne Pryor barely survive a storm as they fly off on their honeymoon. So...was this a result of Storm's powers? Or Blowback's? See if you can connect it to this series' events!

This series also sets up Mystique's plan in **#177**, as you'll see, she "revisits" a strategy on the heels of defeat here. And it presages Storm's power failures and the subsequent romance/heartache with another mysterious stranger with secrets of his own in the classic **LIFEDeATH** storyline. Suffice it to say, we had a ton of fun working with Ann to figure out where to fit this series to tell the story she had in mind--a story inspired by and as Ann put it, a love letter to, the epic X-runs by Chris Claremont--and coming up with ways to tip our hats to where we knew Storm and the rest of the X-Men were headed next. And if you haven't read those issues, it's time to search back-issue bins, Marvel Unlimited and X-Men Omnibuses, friends!

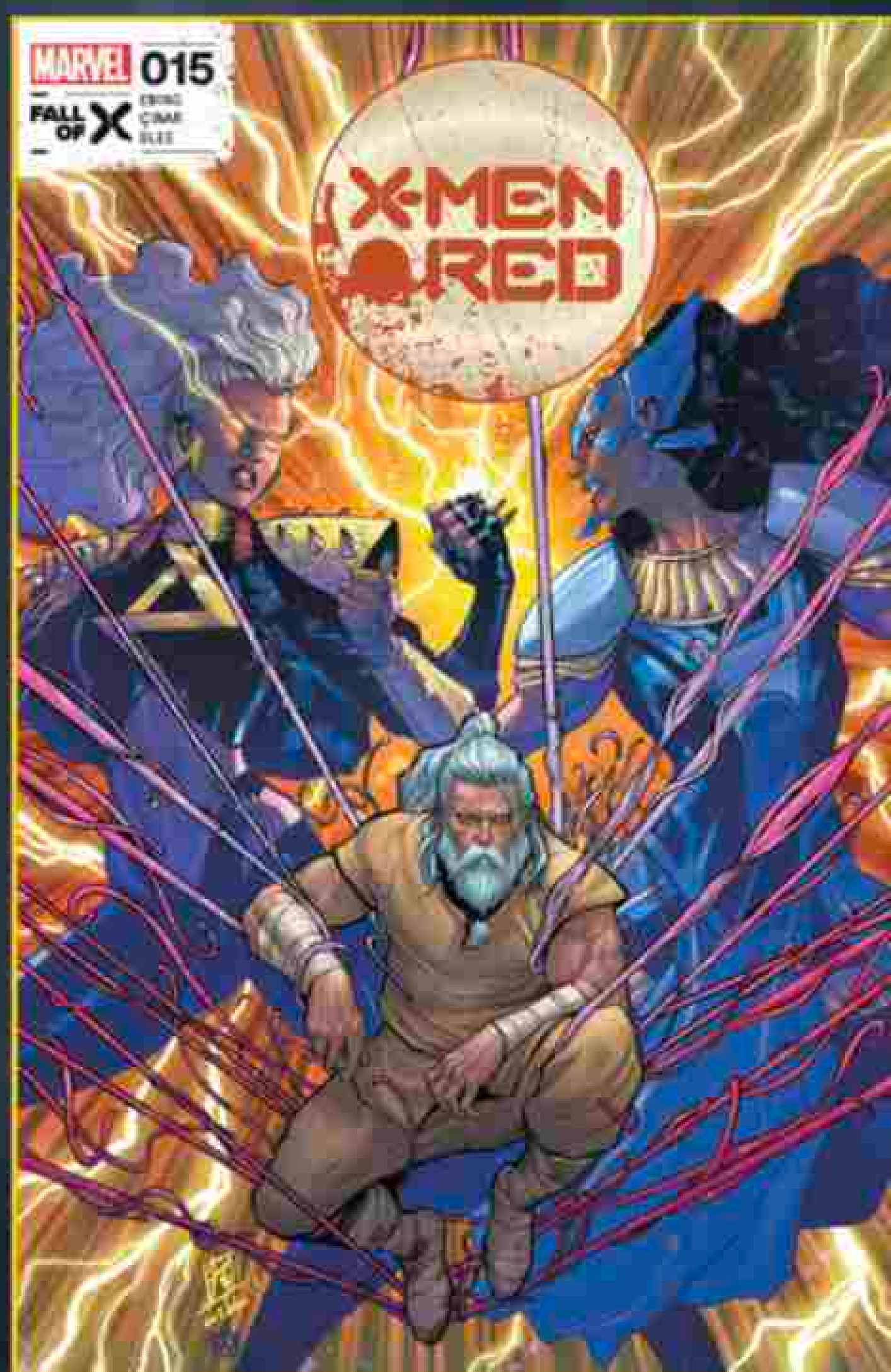
But, of course, we couldn't do it without our thunderous art team creating the scintillating scenes on the page. **Sid Kotian** brought such character and energy to our first two issues--we all fell in love with his Blowback design from the moment we saw it. And **Geraldo Borges** stepped in so seamlessly on

issue #3, he really made these characters his own (look for his first character study on Blowback as a variant cover on this issue!). Color artist **Andrew Dalhouse** held it all together on colors, making everything from the darkest clouds to the brightest lightning jump right off the page. Letterer **Ariana Maher** came up with some brilliant styles for the series, drawing inspiration from those beloved **UNCANNY X-MEN** issues, but making them feel totally fresh. And the legendary **Alan Davis**, paired with extraordinary color wielder **Alejandro Sánchez**, lent their talents to five fabulous covers tracing Storm's journey on this book.

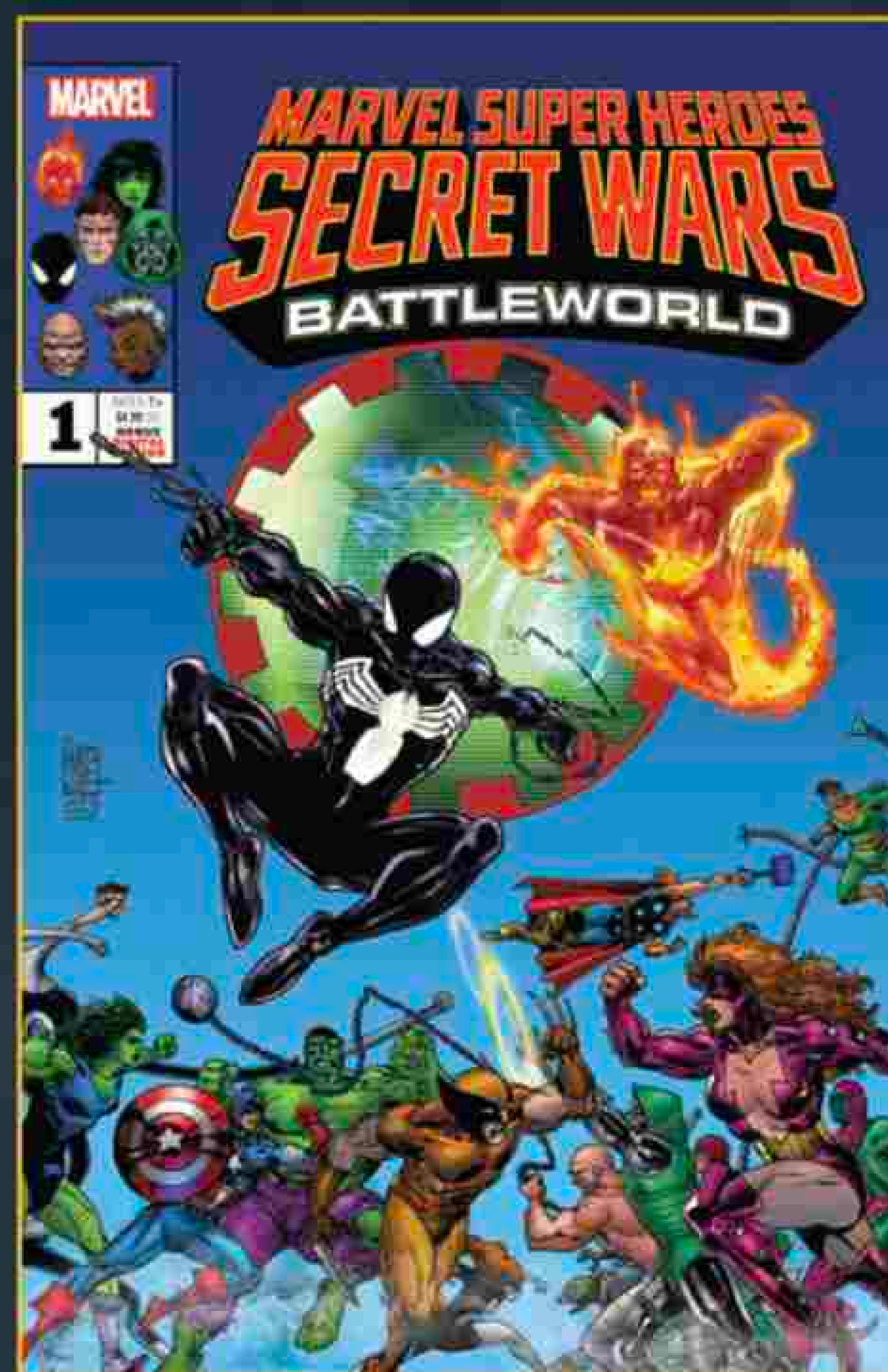
Over in the present day, you can catch Storm in **X-MEN RED**, where she's keeping the peace on Arakko (that's Mars to you flatscans), whose mutant society has just broken out in a civil war. I guess those quiet respites never last long for our favorite Windrider!

Looking for more Marvel Retro picks? In just a few short months, you can pick up **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS: BATTLEWORLD #1**, an all-new story set during the original 1984 **SECRET WARS**, revealing an *even more* secret war Spider-Man embarked upon shortly after discovering his new alien costume!

Stay dry out there!
Drew and Mark



BY AL EWING, YILDIRAY ÇINAR AND
FEDERICO BLEE -- IN STORES NOW!



BY TOM DeFALCO, PAT OLLIFFE AND
JOHN KALISZ -- ON SALE NOVEMBER 22!



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KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA